REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 26, 2004 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 8, and 12 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 11, 15 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 1-10 and 12-14 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement and 1449 Form on August 28, 2003. Currently, only sheet 1 of 2 of the 1449 Form has been received. Applicants ask that the Examiner kindly return a copy of the completed sheet 2 of the 1449 Form with the next communication.

Examiner Interview

Applicants' below signed representative conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Harvey and supervisory Examiner Ta on August 30, 2004. The interview was directed toward the applicability of the cited art references and claim amendments to put the claims in condition for allowance.

It was agreed that claim 1 would be allowable if claim 1 was amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 15. It was also agreed that claim 8 would be allowable if claim 8 was amended to incorporate subject matter similar to that of dependent claim 11. The Examiner is thanked for his time. Each of claims 1 and 8 has been amended accordingly.

Further comments with regards to the detailed rejections of the Office Action dated July 26, 2004 is believed to be unnecessary in light of the agreement reached in the Examiner Interview.
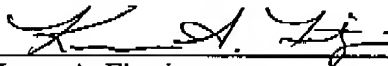
5

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-10 and 12-14) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

23552
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: _Sept. 3, 2004_

Karen A. Fitzsimmons
Reg. No. 50,470
KAF:cjm

6